DAVE Russell, the Beaconsfield lad who somehow escaped Wycombe's attention when playing in local football, made Wanderers pay for that error by scoring a brilliant last minute winner for Slough in Tuesday night's local Berger Isthmian League derby match at Loakes Park.

Russell, who played for Beaconsfield United and then Flackwell Heath before joining Slough two seasons ago provided the one piece of inspiration to lighten the gloomy evening and maintain Slough's success rate at Loakes Park.

The match seemed to be drifting towards a goalless

Wycombe Wanderers 0, Slough Town 1
Report by MICHAEL KNOX

draw before Russell struck. Receiving the ball on the edge of the penalty area from Tim Turl's free-kick, he swivelled and jinked to beat two defenders before firing home a fierce left foot drive across goal and into the far corner.

Goalkeeper John Maskell, making his 700th appearance for the Blues, dived valiantly, but the shot was so well directed that he never stood a chance. Russell was immediately mobbed by his teammates while Wycombe looked understandably dejected.

What Russell had committed

was in effect 'floodlight' robbery. Wycombe dominated the match territorially but were unable to find a way through Slough's packed defence. The inspiration the Blues showed at Enfield on Saturday was missing as they frittered away several good opportunities.

In contrast Slough concentrated on quick breaks upfield, and it was disturbing to see the home defence struggling on numerous occasions.

The most alarming feature was the lack of pace shown by Alan Phillips and Keith Mead at the centre of the back. Time and again Phillips was forced into fouling to stop dangerous attacks developing, something he rarely needed to do when he was in his prime.

Blues played their best football of the match in the first half, when they produced some dazzling moves. At the heart of most of them was Dylan Evans, whose goal against Enfield seems to have boosted his confidence.

Making the most of his pace, Evans continually troubled the Slough defence with his close control and astute passing. He made one fine opening for Howard Kennedy, whose powerful shot brought an excellent save from Richard Teale.

SHREWD CHOICE

Blues new manager Andy Williams seems to have made a shrewd choice in Mick Holifield as skipper. In the past he has tended to drift in and out of matches, but with his new found responsibility, Mick was the epitome of effort both in midfield and at the back.

He also took most of Wycombe's ten corners and from the first of them, a back heel by Terry Scott hit a post. Scott probably had the best chance of the night in the 20th minute, when put clean through by Paul Birdseye's astute crossfield pass.

But instead of racing onto the ball, Scott hesitated to check that he was on-side, and that split second delay gave Teale enough time to come out and thwart his shot.

Scott had a disappointing game and was substituted in the 70th minute by Steve Long, returning to the side after a bout of tonsilitis.

The match was well handled by referee Mr Hedges, who booked Slough's Tim Turl in the 69th minute for a foul on Birdseye.

WYCOMBE: J. Maskell; P. Birdseye, R. Davies, K. Mead, A. Phillips, D. Allanson, D. Harris, M. Holifield, D. Evans, H. Kennedy, T. Scott (sub S. Long (70 mins).

SLOUGH: R. Teale; R. Mackay, R. Underwood, T. Reardon (sub M. Foster 45 mins), R. Strong, T. Turl, B. Metcalf, A. Cane, P. Lee, I. Cooke, D. Russell.

Referee: D. A. Hedges (Oxford).

Half-time 0-0. **Scorer:** Slough — Russell (89 mins).

THERE'S still no prospect of injured Wycombe striker Stewart Atkins being fit for the visit of Tooting and Mitcham United to Loakes Park in the Berger Isthmian League tomorrow (Saturday).

Atkins has been out since pulling a hamstring against Hendon two weeks ago and manager Andy Williams is not going to take any risks by bringing him back too soon, and then seeing him break down again.

With Steve Long fully fit Mr Williams is likely to want him to start the match against Tooting.

Either Terry Scott or Derek Harris will drop out. Scott, substituted by Long against Slough in midweek, is the more likely candidate to be relegated.

With three wins and three losses in their first six games, Wycombe will soon need to find a bit of consistency if they are challengers for league honours this season.

Tooting have also made a patchy start with two wins, a draw and three defeats. It seems they have been letting in some soft goals. For instance they scored three times against Oxford City but still lost. Their best

result was the 3-1 victory over Dagenham.

There is only one significant change from last year. Paul Priddy, the former Brentford goalkeeper, has dropped out of football for the present, in the hope of getting back into the Football League.

His place between the posts has been taken by the former Charlton Athletic player Garry Sproul, a new signing this season.

The probable Tooting team: G. Sproul, T. Ford, S. Grubb, K. Highland, R. Green, A. Berrecloth, C. Woffinden, J. Keefe, D. Dennis, D. Juneman, A. Ives. Sub.: T. Crockett.